

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Microfilm Publication M89

LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY FROM
COMMANDING OFFICERS OF SQUADRONS
("SQUADRON LETTERS"), 1841-1886

Roll 91

Home Squadron

Volume 95

Apr. 5, 1849-Jan. 23, 1851



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON: 1971

INTRODUCTION

On the 300 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced 307 volumes of letters, with their enclosures, received by the Secretary of the Navy from commanding officers of squadrons during the period February 16, 1841-November 11, 1886 (only letters from the Pacific Squadron are dated 1886). These letters are part of the records designated in the National Archives and Records Service as Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library, Record Group 45.

The Department of the Navy was established by an act of April 30, 1798. From 1798 to 1815 the Office of the Secretary had direction of all the administrative functions of the Department except those assigned to the navy yards and the Marine Corps. In 1815 a Board of Navy Commissioners was established to assist the Secretary, and it was under the direction of this Board that the fleet was first divided into permanent squadrons on a number of stations. Although detachments of vessels had been called squadrons before 1815, they were organized on an ad hoc basis to carry out a specific mission. Upon completion of that mission, the squadron ceased to exist.

The six earliest squadrons established on a permanent basis, in the order of their establishment, were: Mediterranean Squadron, West India Squadron, Pacific Squadron, Brazil Squadron, East India Squadron, and the Home Squadron. All of these squadrons, except the West India Squadron, were still in existence in 1841, when the Navy Department first filed separately the letters received by the Secretary of the Navy from commanding officers of squadrons. The African Squadron was established in 1843, and the short-lived Eastern Squadron in 1853. No other squadrons were created before 1861.

During the Civil War six new squadrons were established to carry troops and supplies, support Army missions, promulgate the blockade of southern ports, and retake the Mississippi River and its tributaries. They were the Mississippi Squadron, 1861-65; the North and South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, 1861-65, formed from the Atlantic Blockading Squadron that had existed briefly in 1861; and the East and West Gulf Blockading Squadrons, 1862-65, the former of which was the successor to the 1861-62 Gulf Squadron. In addition, three detachments of smaller vessels were formed: Mortar Flotilla, 1862; James River Flotilla, 1862; and the Potomac Flotilla, 1861-65. The letters from commanding officers of these flotillas were filed with the letters from commanding officers of squadrons and are reproduced in this microfilm publication. By the end of 1865 all of these Civil War squadrons and flotillas had ceased to exist.

In the postwar period, the Pacific Squadron, the only prewar squadron to survive the Civil War intact, underwent a number of organizational changes. Pursuant to a Navy Department circular dated April 23, 1866, the Pacific Squadron was divided into the North Pacific and South Pacific Squadrons. General Order 105, March 13, 1869, rearranged the American fleet in the Pacific into a Pacific Station, under the command of rear admiral, divided into a Northern and a Southern Squadron, each under the command of a commodore. Another change was made on July 8, 1872, when General Order 175 stipulated that as of October 1, 1872, the Pacific Station would be divided into the North Pacific and the South Pacific Stations, thereby abolishing the Northern and Southern Squadrons. Finally, the Pacific Station was reestablished between April and July 1878.

The other squadrons created after April 1865 included South Atlantic Squadron, European Squadron, Atlantic Squadron, Gulf Squadron, Asiatic Squadron, and the Special Squadron. The Special Squadron, created in 1865, was formed to reenforce the Navy in the Pacific. Before its discontinuance in the following year, it was given the function of testing new vessels. The year 1866 also witnessed the end of the Atlantic Squadron and the establishment of the North Atlantic Squadron. The Gulf Squadron was discontinued in 1867. In 1882 the Training Squadron, the last to be created during the period covered by this microfilm publication, was established to train apprentice seamen.

At the time the first squadrons were established, the highest rank in the Navy was captain. A captain commanding a squadron was often given the courtesy title of "commodore," but it was not until 1857 that the commanding officer of a squadron was officially given a title different from the captains subordinate to him. An act of January 16, 1857, made the commanding officer of a squadron a "flag officer." An act of July 16, 1862, created the ranks of commodore and rear admiral and, thereafter, the commanding officer of a squadron usually held one of these ranks.

From about 1824 to 1885 the practice of the Navy Department was to bind letters received in several series according to classes of correspondents, such as letters received from the chiefs of Navy bureaus, and letters received from captains. Before 1841 letters received from squadron commanders were bound in the series "Captains' Letters," the usual grade of these officers. Beginning in 1841 and 1842, most letters from commanding officers of squadrons were bound in the separate series "Squadron Letters." By the end of 1885, except for the Pacific Squadron letters that were bound until November 1886, the Navy Department had discontinued the practice of binding letters received from squadron commanders. Thereafter, both incoming and outgoing correspondence of the Secretary with the heads of squadrons was filed numerically in a general correspondence series along with correspondence to and from other sources.

The communications and enclosures bound in the "Squadron Letters" series here reproduced are arranged in subseries by squadrons. These subseries were started at convenient breaking points, such as the establishment of a new squadron, the appointment of a new commanding officer, or the beginning of a cruise. This accounts for the varying dates for the beginning of the different subseries. The subseries are arranged in chronological order by the date of the earliest letter received (later divisions of the original Pacific Squadron are considered part of the Pacific Squadron subseries). Within each subseries and volume the letters are arranged generally in chronological order.

Occasionally letters relating to a specific event have been bound together in the same volume despite the fact that some of the letters are dated much later than others. For example, in the West Gulf Blockading Squadron volume containing letters pertaining to the attack on Mobile Bay in August 1864 (reproduced on roll 193 of this microfilm publication) are filed letters relating to the attack dated as late as January 11, 1868. In addition to the letters and telegrams from the squadron commander, the "Squadron Letters" include a large number of enclosures in the forms of reports, receipts, oaths of allegiance, certificates of death, requisitions, orders, circulars, maps, plans, drawings, photographs, newspapers and newspaper clippings, and other foreign and domestic published material received from subordinate officers, enlisted men, bureaus of the Navy Department, U.S. Army officers, diplomatic and consular officials of the United States, private citizens at home and abroad, business concerns, and officials of foreign governments, especially navy and army officers. Some enclosures are fair or press copies of letters received and letters sent by the commanding officer of the squadron to correspondents other than the Secretary of the Navy.

The letters and their enclosures relate to such topics as Army and Navy operations in the Mexican and Civil Wars, ship accidents, negotiation of treaties, courts-martial, observations of military and naval institutions and affairs in foreign countries, appointments and other personnel matters, and experimental and technical information. A few of the many significant events and operations documented in the letters reproduced in this microfilm publication include the disagreement between Commodore Robert F. Stackton and Gen. Stephen W. Kearney over who had the authority to organize the Territorial government of California in 1847 (Pacific Squadron); Commodore Matthew C. Perry's mission to Japan in 1853 and 1854 (East India Squadron); and joint Navy and Army operations against Vicksburg in 1862 and 1863 (Mississippi Squadron).

The name of the correspondent, the date of the letter, and a brief or abstract of its contents are written on the back of the last page of most of the letters in this series. When a letter was forwarded to the Secretary, he indicated the action to be taken by a penciled note below the brief.

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File designations at the bottom of the last page of each letter, such as "K296 Nov. 18 Smith," relate to an earlier practice of registering all regular incoming letters. Apparently the letters were filed according to their file designations in the Office of the Secretary of the Navy. By 1853 these file designations were discontinued; but often the initial letter of the name of the correspondent or the squadron, the date received, and the clerk's names were given. The file designations have no present relevance.

Some of the letters were considered, but not necessarily selected, for publication in the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion (Washington, 1894-1927), a publication (M275) that has been reproduced on microfilm by the National Archives. The letters so considered bear the distinguishing stamp "C.N.W.R."

Sometime after the letters were bound, they were usually paginated in a number of ways, ranging from numbering only the first page of each letter to numbering every page of each letter and the accompanying enclosure. Usually the numbering is consecutive throughout a volume, and all pagination appears in the upper right corner.

Most volumes have name and subject indexes or lists of contents in the front of the volume. Some, however, have only name indexes, and a few have no indexes at all. The indexes refer to either the page numbers or to the letter numbers. Some volumes have two indexes or an index and an addenda at the front of the volume, usually a manuscript and a typed one. The typed index is usually more complete than the manuscript.

Record Group 45 contains several related series of records. Among them are Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Officers Below the Rank of Commander ("Officers' Letters"), 1802-1884 (M148); Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Commanders, 1804-1886 (M147); Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Captains ("Captain's Letters"), 1805-1861 and 1866-1885 (M125); Miscellaneous Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy ("Miscellaneous Letters"), 1801-1884 (M124); Miscellaneous Letters Sent by the Secretary of the Navy ("General Letter Book"), 1798-1886 (M209); Letters Sent by the Secretary of the Navy to Officers ("Officers, Ships of War"), 1798-1868 (M149); and Letter Books of Commodore Matthew C. Perry, 1843-1845 (M206).

The editorial material for this microfilm publication was written by Dale Floyd.

7th
Rec 28 June 1849.

30

No. 8.

U. S. Flag Ship *Raritan*.
Savannah, June 19. 1849.

28 June 1849
Sir

I have the honor to report the arrival
of the "*Raritan*" at this port on the 17th Inst.
last from Port au Prince, all well on board.

I shall sail in a few days
for Vera Cruz, and then to Genoa.

As yet, I have not fallen in
with any of the vessels under my command.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Yr. Most Obedt. Servant.

Foskell A. Walker
Commanding Home Squadron

28
The Hon:

Wm. Ballou Preston.

Secretary of the Navy.
Washington.
D.C.

19 June

Recd 28 June 1849.

31

No. 9.

28 June

U. S. Flag Ship *Raritan*.
Havana. June 19. 1849.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from the Department dated May 7th, enclosing an extract from a letter of Mr. Shields, our Charge d'Affaires at Caracas, to the Hon: Secretary of State.

The "*Germanton*", Commander *Erondes*, sailed from Santa Cruz for La Guayra, about the middle of May, and I presume her Commander will communicate with the Legation at Caracas, although he had no orders to do so.

Very Respectfully, Sir,
Your Obedt. Servant

Frodoe A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

ne 28 June

The Hon:

Wm. Ballard Preston.

Secretary of the Navy.

Washington
D.C.

17 June

Recd 28 June 1849.

No. 10,

32

5 July '49

U.S. Flag Ship *Raritan*.
Havana. June 22. 1849.

Sir.

In my communication to the Department of the 19th Instant, I informed you of the arrival of the "*Raritan*" at this Port.

We sail in the morning for Vera Cruz.

The Captain General and the other authorities here, have received us with great politeness, and every attention has been paid to our wants.

Our Consul General Campbell is highly spoken of by the Spanish Officers, as well as the Americans residing at this place, and the masters of our Merchant vessels.

I have found him all I could wish as a representative of our Government.

With great respect, Sir,
Yr. Most Obedt. Servant.

Foshall A. Porter
Commanding Home Squadron

The Hon.

Wm. Ballou Preston.

Secretary of the Navy,
Washington
D.C.

June 28

Duplicate

(Copy)

U. S. Ship Albany.
St. Jago de Cuba. June 16, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that in obedience to your order of April 20, 1849, the "Albany", under my command, sailed from Pensacola on the 1st of May, and after a long passage of forty one days arrived at the outer anchorage of the port of San Carlos (Hayti) on the 11th of this present month.

Immediately upon arriving at the P^o of Vache, I despatched a boat to the town of San Carlos to communicate with our commercial agent, and to learn something of your movements. The Lieutenant in charge of the boat brought me your communication of the 26th of May, and immediately weighed anchor and stood out to sea the same day and anchored in this harbor last evening. My object in coming here was the hope of meeting with you, and to give the crew fresh provisions and fruits, and to fill up our water. I regret to say however that owing to an unprecedented drought in this portion of the Island, of more than six months duration, we cannot accomplish the last mentioned purpose.

I shall avail myself of the land breeze early on Monday morning, to leave St. Jago, and proceed with all despatch to join you in Vera Cruz.

I am happy to inform you that we are blessed with excellent health on board the "Albany".

I am, Sir, Respectfully,
Yours, &c. S. M. S.
(Signed) V. M. Randolph
Commander.

minodone

Exhall A. Parker,
Comdg. Home Squadron.
Expected in Havana.

Recd 20 Jns.

38

No. 13.

U. S. Flag Ship *Raritan*.
Pursacola, July 10. 1849.

Sir.

I have the honor to report the arrival here today, of this Ship from Vera Cruz, which port we left on the 3^d instant with the "Albany". But we parted company on the morning of the 5th, on account of her dull sailing.

We anchored outside the Bar last evening. I find that the "Saratoga", "Germania", and "Water Witch" are in port.

I am, Sir, Respectfully,
Your Obedt. Servant.

Foshae A. Walker
Commanding Home Squadron.

The Hon.

W. B. Ballou Preston.

Secretary of the Navy,
Washington.
U.S.

(Copy)

U. S. Ship *Saratoga*.
off Pensacola Navy Yard.
July 10. 1849.

Sir.

I have the honor to report the arrival of this Ship, on the 5th Inst, seven days from Com-
speche, having fully carried out the orders of
Commodore Wilkiness.

Enclosed you will find receipt, for arms and am-
munition delivered to the Government of Yucatan by
order of Commodore Perry.

On the evening of the 16th Ult. Com. S. Green-
step ("Master at Arms") after having reported the lights out,
was knocked down by an eye bolt thrown from
deck, while in the act of descending the main Hatch.
His life was much endangered by the shock.

I have confined Job Smith (Ordinary Seaman),
on strong circumstantial evidence, as the author of
the act, and may I request that you will
be pleased to order an investigation of the affair.

I am Sir, Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servant.
(Signed) W. C. Nicholson
Commander.

Commodore

Forhall St. Parker.
Commanding U. S. Fleet Squadron.

Copy

42

Juan Bautista Angli oficial 1.^o del ministerio politico de artilleria de esta plaza.

En virtud de orden del Sr Comandante de las armas de la expresada he recibido de M.^{te} Carpenden, Comandante del vapor de guerra N. Amere Orio las armas y efectos siguientes:

Armas para infanteria

fusiles americanos con bayonetas veinte . . . 20.-

Efectos no pertenecientes al uso de la Artilleria

Cananos capaces de veinte y un cartuchos cada uno . . . 42.-

Campesche Julio 5. de 1848.

(Signed) Juan B. Angli

Impr
V. no
Cadenas

43

Juan B. Angli oficial 1^o del ministerio politico de artilleria.
esta plaza

En virtud de orden del Sr Comandante de las armas de la expresada he recibido de M^{re} E. V. Sarpender Comandante del Vapor de guerra Norte americano las municiones siguientes

Servicio

Municiones p^a infanteria

Cartuchos de fusil embalados: cuatro mil ————— 4.000
Piedras de chispa para id: mil ————— 1.000

Efectos de parque

Cajas capaces de cien pañadas cada una: cuatro ————— 4
Caja capaz de mil piedras: una ————— 1

Lampicoche Julio 17 de 1848.

M. B.
adun. aq.

Juan B. Angli

Duplicate

Received from A. Bigelow Capt. Commanding
United States naval forces at this Station, the following
articles which he has had the goodness to loan to the
foreign residents of this Town for their protection — viz

40 Forty Muskets
40 Forty Cartridge Boxes
2 Two bags of flints
5000 Five thousand ball cartridges

Laguna, July 21st 1848

Geor B. Shiel

A. Hoffman

M. M. M. M.

B. M. M.

Edward Field

Richard Maff

Committee named by said foreign
residents

Laguna July 25th 1848.

Received of A. Bigelow commander
U.S. Navy for the use of a volunteer com-
pany about to be formed for the protection
of the inhabitants of this place against
any attack which might be made by
the Indians, & to preserve order in the
town for the protection of persons and
property. Ten thousand ball musket
cartridges, one thousand flints.

Joseph Robira

Juan B. Angli oficial 1.^o del ministerio
politico de artill.^a de esta plaza

En virtud de orden del Sr. Comandante de
las armas de la expresada he recibido de M.^o
E. V. Barfender Comand.^{te} del vapor de guerra
Norte Americano viz las municiones siguientes

Servicio

Municiones p.^a infant.^a

Cartuchos de fusil embalados diez y nueve mil 8900

Efectos de parque.

Cajas capaces de cien paradas cada una: ocho8
Barrilitos ig de ig: ocho8
Cajitas ig de cinco ig: seis6

Camp.^{te} Julio 24 de 1848

Expo
Cadenaz

Juan B. Angli

Sir,

U. S. Ship Albany 63
Pensacola July 12. 1849

I would respectfully report the following
circumstance. —

On the 5th July, John Cain, a private in the
Marine Guard on board of this ship, was punished
with twelve lashes with the Cat for carrying
a concealed bayonet about his person during the
day, and keeping it in his hammock during
the night, for the avowed purpose of using it
to kill George Young, Ord. Sea: upon the slightest
provocation. —

After receiving the twelve lashes at the Gang-way,
and upon being released by the Quarter Master
said Cain, turning to the ship's company,
said audibly, "Any one is a damned fool who
comes into the Service". —

Cain is a bad fellow and an Irishman, and one
of the most turbulent of his race. I would most
respectfully recommend that he receive
another dozen in the presence of the whole
Marine Guard of the Squadron and there that
he be Dishonorably Discharged from the Service
of the United States.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your Obedt. Servt.

Frederick A. Parker

Commandr. Home Squadron

U. S. Flag Ship Porpoise

V. M. Randolph
Commandr.

23 Aug 49.
10 Aug

79

No. 30.

U.S. Flag Ship. *Raritan*.
Pensacola. 14 August 1849.

Sir.

It is my intention to sail in the morning for the North, and as the season is so far advanced shall take the "*Saratoga*" with me.

The "*Albany*", "*Plut*" and "*Water Witch*", will be left in the Gulf for the protection of our Citizens and Commerce; and also the steamer "*Vixen*", which vessel I understand may be expected at this port in a week or two.

Commander Randolph will be the Senior Officer afloat.

It is my present intention to run into Newport, Rhode Island, to ascertain the health of the Naval Stations (as I understand the Cholera is making ravages at some of them) and shall there await your orders.

The Summer here has been unusually warm and the Officers and Crews of the Vessels have suffered very much from debility, but I am happy to say, there has been no contagious disease.

I have the honor, to be,
Very Respectfully,
Your Obedt. Servant.

Foshee A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron.

The Hon.

W. Ballard Preston.

Secretary of the Navy,

Washington D.C.

8 Sep.

Aug. 20 Harv

No 32.

83
U. S. Flag Ship Raritan
off Newport. (R.I.)
September 6. 1849.

Sir

I have the honor to inform the Depart-
ment that the "Raritan" and "Saratoga" arrived
here this day, in 22 days from Pensacola.

I have to off the ship of
Havana on the afternoon of the 24th
Ultimo, and the next morning sent Lieut.
Huger with a letter to our Consul, Genl.
Campbell. Enclosed minutes of a
conversation he had with him.

It was there I first heard of
the contemplated invasion of Cuba by some
of our Countrymen, and received the President's
Proclamation. Since then, I have been
keeping a bright lookout for vessels with
troops &c., said to be about sailing from
New York.

General Campbell stated that the man
Rey or Garcia, was certainly forcibly taken
away from New Orleans.

He was given up, and sent back in the
American Brig "Salvadora" on the 19th of
August.

On the 29th Ult. we fell in with the Schooner
"Thos. L. Huger" from Galveston (Texas) bound
to New York, short of water, sails wanting repairs,
and the loss of her Ensign. The "Saratoga"
supplied her wants, by signal from this ship.
The

The Gales during the autumnal equinox
on our Coast are usually severe, I
therefore propose going either to Boston or
Norfolk (whichever dock is vacant) early
this Month, to give the Ship such repairs
as are necessary.

It will be well to dock this Ship before
returning to the West Indies where the worm
is so destructive, as some of the Copper
may have been rubbed from her keel, when
she touched on the coral reef off "St. Thomas".

This may be done in Fort, eight
Days, and we can then cruise on our
Atlantic Coast until the time arrives for
our return South.

This Ship will soon be compelled to go
to some port, where we can get supplies,
as we only took from Pensacola enough,
or little more, than enough to last us to one
of the Atlantic Ports.

I have written to the Chief of the Bureau
of Construction for relating to docking this
Ship and the necessary repairs to the "Sard-
-toga".

On leaving Pensacola, I directed Command
Randolph to keep the "Albany" ready for Sea
and comply with any orders Captain Newton
might (in my absence) receive from the Depart-
-ment, requiring the Services of a Vessel of War.

I also requested Captain Newton to open
my public Letters and to act on them, if neces-
-sary.

I remained at Pensacola ten days after the
receipt

receipt of your despatch in which you alluded
to a letter that Captain Newton might
receive from the District Attorney at New-
Orleans.

We have a good many sick on board, who
were left at different times at the Hospital
Pensacola. Some will have to go to the
Hospital, and others (who wish it) be dis-
charged. - The names of the latter will be
sent for your approval. They are not fit
for the service.

It is singular that I heard nothing in
Pensacola about the Expedition said to be
on foot at Cat Island, for the invasion of
Cuba, although we were in daily receipt
of newspapers from New Orleans.

I presumed that the letter expected
from the District Attorney at New Orleans
to Captain Newton related to the abduction
of Rey, and thought it might have a
good effect to show a part of the Squadron
off the Town of Havana, as well as to get
correct information from our Consul in
relation to that affair.

Havana was very sickly (Yellow Fever) but
notwithstanding, vessels from the United States
were quarantined twenty days.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

With great respect

Your Obt. Servant.

Wm. W. B. Preston.

Secretary of the Navy,
Washington D.C.

Foxhall A. Porter
Commanding Home Squadron.

P.S. In case of an emergency the "Gorham"
could go to sea immediately, and this ship as
as we could fill up with provisions.

Should the emergency be very great, it would
save time to have provisions sent from Boston
to Newport by Railroad, and the cost would
not probably exceed the charge for pilot
in and out port.

Respectfully,
Forhall A. Parker
Comdg. Home Squadron

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W. J. J. Raritan.
at Sea. August 25. 1849.

Sir.

Agreeably to your request, I herewith give you the outlines of a conversation with Genl. K. Campbell our Consul at the Havana. Genl. Campbell stated to me that the Schooner "Mary Ellen" had arrived at the Havana without any registered passenger on board, and several days after this, he heard rumors of the abduction of Key or Garcia, and that he had made some inquiries about him, but could obtain nothing satisfactory; that he then heard she had stopped at Mariel and landed a passenger, that he went to the latter place but could hear nothing of any passenger there; upon his return he saw a negro man who told him that Garcia had been brought over and was on board of some vessel then in the Harbor; that he had visited the vessel mentioned, accompanied by the Captain of the Port, and one or two other Officers of the Government, and saw the man Garcia, and, upon questioning him, the man said he had come over of his own free will and had not been abducted; that upon this, his inquiries ended - but that after this, his information was such as to induce him to believe there was some mystery in the business, and finding that Garcia had been imprisoned and incommunicated, he had demanded to see him officially with two witnesses, and without the presence of any Government Officer, but that this was refused to him - that Garcia had written two letters to him

to "Saratoga"
ship as a
ing.

it would
from here
cost me
for pilot

to go.
to Father
some Squadron

8 Elk.

him, neither of which he got for a long time after they were written, but upon the receipt of one of them, which he received at last, and ⁱⁿ which Garcia said he had not been candid with him in the conversation he had had, because of the presence of the Spanish officials, that now he could tell him, he had not come over of his own accord but had been forced to come, - that having this letter he could go to work with some evidence, and that the only thing to get now, was the evidence that Garcia had written this letter - that after two or three interviews with the Captain General in which he (the Capt. General) had acknowledged that the letter was written by Garcia and promised to release him.

I asked General Campbell if the Government were concerned in this; he told me that he had no doubt of it, that at any rate the whole affair was wrapped in a great deal of mystery to say the least of it, and that he had received instructions from the State Dept. relating to the steps to be taken if he found the Government were concerned in the abduction, but that he had not received these instructions until after the business had been settled, and that as he could not prove the connection of the Capt. General with it, of course he could not take the steps he would otherwise have.

He told me that a memorial of this matter Garcia for a pardon and permission to return to the Island - also his passports - had been made out, and kept in readiness for any emergency, and that finding the excitement this case had created in the U.S. ^{and} the

long time
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and in which
with him
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the steps he was taking to have him liberated,
they had sent the memorial to Garcia and
upon his signing it, he was liberated and
his passports given him, and sent down under
an escort to the Brig "Salvadora", which vessel
he (Gen. Campbell) had chartered to take him (Rey)
over to New Orleans; that he had seen the man
put on board and had made the Captain lock
him up in his Cabin until he was outside,
and that he was to take the man to the
Balize, and leaving his vessel there (Gen. C. to
pay any demurrage) take the railroad across
to the City and not lose sight of the man
until he had delivered him in person to the
District Attorney;

General Campbell also told me that the
Spanish Consul had been brought over in
a large Iron Ship to appear before the District
Court of New Orleans; he also stated to me
that news had been received of an intended
invasion of the Island of Cuba, that there
were one thousand Troops collected at Cat
Island under the Command of Col. White,
and two or three thousand in New York;
that they had collected a great deal of
money; the leader of this expedition had not
been decided upon, that Lopez, a Creole
from Havana, was the second in Command -
that this had created a great deal of ex-
citement - that all the Military Posts
had been strengthened and put on the alert,
that they had increased their Cavalry force
some two or three hundred; that in case
a Civil War did break out, it would be
necessary

necessary to have men of war at least in
the Harbor for the protection of the American
interests - he also gave me the proclama-
-tion of the President of the United States
with regard to the expedition fitting out for
the said invasion, which I had the honor
to have signed.

I believe I have now, sir, given you the
substance of the conversation between Gen
Campbell and myself.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your Obedt. Servant.
(Signed) D.B. Huger.
Flag Lieut.

P.S. I forgot to state that Garcia had
been sent back on Sunday morning the
19th Instant.

Respectfully
D.B.H.

To Command.

H. A. Parker.

Commanding Home Squadron.

87

34

U. S. Flag Ship Rantan.
Newport, R.I. Sep. 6. 1849

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your order to proceed to execute certain orders sent for me to Pensacola.

I shall despatch the "Saratoga" in the morning direct to Cat Ist & shall leave in the morning for New York to provision the ship & sail immediately & carry out my orders.

The ship has one Lieutenant less than her complement.

Lieut. John C. Howell is anxious to join the ship, and I should be much pleased to have him ordered, should it meet the approbation of the Dept.

Very Respectfully, Your obedient

Foxhall A. Parker

Commanding Home Squadron

W. B. Beaton

Acty: of the Navy
Washington

No. 36.

07
U. S. Flag Ship Raritan.
Newport. Sept. 7. 1849.

Sir.

Immediately on the receipt of your despatch dated 23^d ultimo, directing me to proceed to the vicinity of Cat I, I wrote you a hurried letter, saying the "Saratoga" would sail today for that place, and that this ship would proceed to New York to take in provisioning &c. and follow in a few days to fulfil the orders of the Department.

I am now supplying the "Saratoga" with provisioning from this ship, filling up her water &c., and both ships will sail as soon as the wind (now ahead) and the dense fog which set in last night will permit.

I have directed Lieut. James A. Doyle and Passed Midshipman William A. Webb who came home sick, to report to the Department in writing.

I should like to know the destination of the "Germantown" and have a copy of her instructions, if the Department thinks proper to give them; also when the Steamer "Alleghany" will be ready to sail.

In a letter received from the Commander of the "Vixen" just before leaving Pensacola, he stated that she would probably be on that station about this time.

I have heard nothing from her since.

The Department may rest assured that in carrying out its orders, the greatest prudence and vigilance will be observed.

and the
to join
I require

Enclose herewith the letter of resignation and appointment of acting Midshipman John W. Riddell, which I presume will be accepted, and have accordingly allowed him to leave the ship and return to his home in Pittsburg, Pa.

The Conduct of Mr. Riddell has been exemplary and satisfactory while he has been attached to this ship, but being rather advanced in life for a Midshipman he has determined to give up a Naval life.

I have the honor to be
With respect

Yours Obedt. Servant.

Fosshall A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

Thos. W. Ballard Preston.

Secretary of the Navy,
Washington.
D.C.

P.S. This ship has but three passed Midshipmen, The "Saratoga" and "Albatross" none, should the Department see proper

and the passed Midshipmen be able
to join the ship immediately in New York,
I request that a few may be ordered.

Respectfully yr.

F. A. Parker

No 37

U. S. Flag Ship Raritan
Newport R.I.

September 8th 1849

Sir

I have the honor to report that this ship is now getting underway for New York, at which port I expect to arrive on Monday next.

The "Saratoga" is also now getting underway with orders to proceed at once, to the mouth of "Mississippi". Lt. Jno. A. Winslow of the "Saratoga" has not been able to attend to duty for the last four months, and in consequence of which I have been obliged to have him surveyed and detached from the ship, a copy of which, survey I herewith enclose.

The "Saratoga" will want ^{se} repairs before long, and is now short of Officers, should it be the instruction of the Department to keep her out any length of time, I would recommend that another Lieut. be added to her, as the duties of the station make it requisite, that the ships thus employed should have their complement of Officers.

In order to facilitate the movements of this ship I last night dispatched the Purser to New York with the acquisitions, and with orders to have every thing arranged for, ready for us on our arrival. I have the honor to be.

Very Respectfully

Yr. Obedt. Servant

Fred. A. Parker

Comd. Home Squadron

The Honble

W. B. Preston

Sec. of the Navy

Washington D.C.

No. 43

98

U. S. Flag Ship *Raritan*
Off Mobile Bar.
October 18. 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the arrival
of this ship in 32 days from New York.
Our passage has been
much lengthened by adverse gales and
calms.

On the 20th and 21st September we
had a heavy gale from the Sth.

On the South side of
Cuba nothing but light airs and calms,
and since leaving Cape Antonio have had
strong head winds.

On the 14th Inst. we were off the Mouth
of the Mississippi, and took a pilot with the
intention of anchoring, as the wind was ahead
with a strong westerly current, but it coming
on to blow, we were obliged to stand off;
since which time we have had heavy gales.

As yet, I have seen none of
the Vessels composing the Squadron under my
command.

Should I find all quiet at Round Island,
I shall proceed to Pensacola, first commu-
nicating with the District Attorney and Collector
at New Orleans.

Very Respectfully

Your most Obedt. Servant

Foshall A. Parker

Commanding Home Squadron

Wm. M.

W. Ballard Preston

Secy of the Navy

Washington

Nov 1849

Oct 27. Hav

No. 44.

99

U. S. Flag Ship *Raritan*,
off Round Island.
October 19. 1849.

Sir.

I arrived off this Island this morning and found that all the persons assembled on Round Island had left, and the Squadron, with the exception of the "Vixen", had gone to Pensacola.

I have written to the collector and District Attorney at New Orleans for any information they may possess in regard to this Expedition, which is now apparently suppressed.

The anchorage being very unsafe for vessels of this class, I shall immediately sail for Pensacola.

I have the honor to be
Yours Obt. Servant.

Foxhall A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

Yours,

W. Ballou Preston

Secretary of the Navy
Washington.

D.C.

1849

29. Nov

45.

U. S. Frigate *Paritan*
Off Pensacola Fla
October 21st 1849

Sir,

We anchored here this morning, and when the wind and tide will permit shall proceed to the anchorage off the Navy Yard.

We made the Light House, the night before last, but was driven off by a severe gale, which continued until daylight this morning.

I shall prepare the Ship for sea immediately, and be ready for any service.

There are, I am sorry to say, some scorbutic affections among the crew, in consequence, I presume, of being so long on salted provisions, but I hope, a little rest, fresh provisions, and a run on shore will restore them to health. This ship will remain here, until I hear from the Department, unless something turns up to call my attention elsewhere. Many of the Ship's Sails have been split, and much worn, in the gales we have encountered, which will take some time to repair.

The *Saratoga* and *Albany* are at anchor in the Harbor, and I presume the *Flirt* and *Water Witch* also.

The *Vixen*, I sent to Pascagoula with our letter bag on the 19th, with directions, to touch at Mobile on her way to this place.

I have had no communications from the Department since leaving New York. If any have been sent to New Orleans they will be forwarded here, in a day or two.

1849

29. Nov

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Yr M^{ost} Obedt Servant
Foxhall A Parker
Comd'g Army Squadron

To the Honorable
Mr Gallard Presmon
Secretary of the Navy
Washington D.C.

U. S. Frigate *Raritan*
 Off Navy Yard, Pensacola
 October 25th 1849.

Sir,
 Your letter of the 9th inst, has been received.
 I expect the Steamer *Vixen* will arrive here to day from Mobile, and I shall despatch her forthwith to Mariacibo, in compliance with your Order.
 I enclose letters from the District Attorney and Collector of Customs at New Orleans.

The *Saratoga*, *Albany*, *Flirt*, & *Waterwitch* are in Port preparing for sea.

The *Alleghany* has sailed previous to my arrival for Washington, and I hear the German town was at Havana on the 8th inst.

I have the honor to be
 With great respect
 Your Obedient Servant
 Foxhall & Paine
 Midshipman Squadron

30 - Nov

The Honorable
 Wm. R. Gallard
 Secretary of the Navy
 Washington D. C.

Copy.

102

Custom House, New Orleans
Collectors Office. Oct 20. 1849

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your Communication of 19 Inst. In reply to your request for information respecting the assemblages of people, with hostile intentions towards some foreign Country with which ours at peace, & which have recently occupied the attention of the Government. I take pleasure in assuring you that that recently on Round Island, has been the only one of which I have had any knowledge, & that the prompt & energetic course of the Government, has caused that to be entirely dispersed.

I send to you address by the Mail of this day a package containing many letters for, yourself & Officers on board.

I also send you some of our City papers, which I trust will be acceptable.

I remain, Sir,

Foxhall A Parker
Commanding Arm Squadron

Very Respectfully
Yours &c
Signed. Saml J Peters
Coll

Commodore
Foxhall A Parker
Commanding Arm Squadron
U. S. Ship Haritan Pensacola.

Copy.

103

New Orleans. Oct 20. 1849

Foxhall A Parker Esq

Sir,

I hasten to acknowledge the due receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. Since the dispersion of the party lately assembled on Round Island, I have heard nothing in regard to the expedition with which they were said to be connected, and I am led to believe that they will give no further trouble in this quarter. Should it prove otherwise, I shall deem it my duty to communicate to you, without delay, whatever information I may receive.

I had a number of letters for you, which I handed to Samuel J. Peters Esq. Collector, who has forwarded them to your address.

I am, Sir, respectfully,
Yours Oct 20

Logan Hunter
by E. A. Bradford
U. S. Dist Atty
East. Dist of La

Foxhall A Parker
Comdg Amr Squadron

No. 52.

110

U. S. Flag Ship Raritan.
Pensacola, Nov. 26. 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 17th Inst. enclosing papers in relation to the Naval General Court Martial ordered to convene on board this ship on the 1st of December next.

Altho the name of Lieut. Semmes was on the precept, his orders were not enclosed to me, but I presume they were sent direct to him at Mobile.

I have written to him, informing him of his being a Member, however.

I return your order for Commander Nicholson, to the Department.

Yesterday a communication was received from Commander Nicholson reporting the arrival of the "Saratoga" at Havana in the remarkably short run of fifty five hours from this port.

Very Respectfully,
Your obedt. Servant.

Foxhall A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

The Hon:

W. L. Ballard Preston
Secretary of the Navy
Washington D.C.

Dec 3. Nav

No. 59

119

U. S. Flag Ship *Raritan*
Havana. January 3^d 1850

Sir.

I have the honor to report the arrival here of the Squadron under my command.

This ship arrived upon the 1st, and the "*Albany*" upon the 2^d instant.

I shall sail in a day or two for the Windward Islands, despatching the other vessels to different parts of the West Indies and Gulf of Mexico, to cruise.

Orders were left at Pensacola for the "*German town*".

Since our arrival we have been treated with great politeness, and every attention shown us by the Captain General, and other authorities.

Should the Department wish to communicate with me, such communications will reach me, if sent to St. Thomas, or Santa Cruz, by the middle of February - or, if later, to be sent to this port, as I shall touch here on my return from Windward.

I am, Sir, respectfully,
Your most obed^t servant.

Foxhall A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

Respectfully,

W. Ballard Preston.

Secretary of the Navy,
Washington D.C.

Jan 1850.

Jan 4. Havana

No. 72.

U. S. Flag Ship *Raritan*
Havana. April 8, 1858.
3 o'clock P.M.

Sir.

I have this moment received a letter from our Consul General Campbell, a copy of which you will find enclosed.

The Steamer "Kabel" sails in an hour, and I have only time to inform you, that I have consented to remain here a few days longer, to ascertain whether the reports in circulation are true or false.

I am expecting the Sloop of War "Albatross" Rensselaer, and in the event of her arriving, will sail immediately for the port designated in your order of the 27th ultimo; or at all events, when I find the agitation now existing with our Countrymen here has ceased.

I am Sir respectfully
Your Obedt. Servant.

Foxhall A Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

The Honble
W. Ballard Preston
Secretary of the Navy.
Washington D.C.

(Copy.)

136

Consulate of the United States.
Havana, April 8. 1850.

Commodore Josiah A. Parker.
Commanding U.S. Home Squadron.
Harbor of Havana.

Sir.

From reports in circulation believed by many Americans to be authentic, it is understood that an expedition composed of Native Cubans, and Americans, is about to land soon upon this Island -

Many American citizens residing in this City have in consequence of that belief requested me to ask that you will please to remain longer in this harbor of Havana, if it comports with your duty, that you may afford them such protection as circumstances should require.

I have the honor to be Sir
(With great respect and esteem.
Yr. Most. Obedt. Servant.

(Signed) Robert R. Campbell.

No. 73.

U. S. Flag Ship Raritan.
Monday evening. April 15. 1850
Off Cape Henry.

Sir.

I have the honor to report that this Ship is now standing in for the Capes of Virginia, in charge of a pilot, five days from Havana, and will proceed up to Norfolk as soon as possible.

I regret to report to the Department, the death of James Elliot (Guaine) on the morning of the 9th instant at Havana, of Cholera, after an illness of only five hours.

The Cholera raging to a considerable extent at Havana, and fears that it might spread on board of this Ship, induced me to leave on the 10th instant, since which time, I am happy to say, we have had no new case.

The "Flier" was left at Havana, (all well on board) to sail soon for Guatam.

I left orders for the "Albany" and "Serranstown" at Havana, to remain at that port, should there seem cause for it, as long as it might be necessary for the protection of our Countrymen, and without endangering the health

The Hon'ble

W. Ballard Preston

Secretary of the Navy.

Washington.

W.C.

health of their crews; though, I imagine from what I heard after sending my letter "No. 72" to the Department, that the fears of our Citizens in regard to a speedy invasion of Cuba are unfounded. -

In my last interview with General Campbell after informing him that it was necessary for the health of the crew that I should take the ship out of the harbor, but, proposing to remain 'off and on' the entrance to the port, and communicating with him daily, he said that from what he had learned and believed, there was not the slightest necessity for my remaining at all.

I am Sir, respectfully
Your Obed. Servant.

John A. Walker
Commanding Home Squadron

Settlehurst - Penn^a.
June 15. 1850.

Sir.

I see by the papers that the "Viper's" Officers and Men are to be paid off; if such is the case, as soon as the Department has decided upon the Officers to command that Vessel and the "Water Witch", I should be pleased to hear of it, that I may issue orders to them in regard to their cruising.

As the "Albatross" will soon be north, (as soon as she can be spared from Cuba) I think it desirable to get the Steamers on their cruising grounds as soon as practicable.

One of them to go to Maracaibo and on the Spanish Main.

I am Sir, very respectfully
Your Obedt Servant.

Foxhall A Parker
Commanding Home Squadron

Respectfully
W. Ballard Preston
Secretary of the Navy
Washington,
D.C.

Bethlehem Pa.
July 3. 1850.

Sir.

I enclose herewith a copy
of my instructions to Lieut. Comdr.
Ward, Comdr. the Steamer "Vixen",
which were sent on the 23^d ultimo.
Since which time I have not heard
from him.

I perceive the papers state that
the "Vixen" has sailed for Cuba,
with despatches, but presume from
your letter of the 21st ultimo, that
it is a mistake.

I am Sir respectfully,
Your Obed. Servant.

Frederick A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron.

The Honble
W. Ballard Preston
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington,
D.C.

Beckheim Pa. 148
July 13. 1850

Sir.

It would appear by the letter from Commander Lowndes of the "German-town" (enclosed to me by the Department a few days since), and from other sources, that our affairs at Cuba are still in a very unsettled state, and I therefore feel it my duty as Commander of the Home Squadron to get afloat as soon as possible.

I would strongly recommend that the Squadron be increased, even should our difficulties with Spain be satisfactorily arranged, for it is absolutely necessary that the ports in the West India Islands should be frequently visited by some of the United States Vessels for the protection of our Citizens and Commerce.

I should have visited Washington ere this to confer with you on these matters but for the illness of Mrs. Parker; her health is now improving, and, if necessary I can repair there at any moment.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, Sir, Your Servant.

Frothingham A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron
The Hon. W. B. Hallam Secy. of the Navy,
Washington,
D.C.

July 16 Me

107

Washington 2 September 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith six letters, original correspondence, also a copy of a Circular issued by me to the Commanders of the Home Squadron, and a copy of an order to Commander Randolph, to hoist my pennant on board the Albany, which last order was issued with the verbal advice and authority of the Secretary of the Navy. In my letter of May 1st 1850 to the Department, I stated that I had directed Commander Randolph to hoist my pennant on the Albany immediately on his arrival at Boston - this I stated because the Albany was then under orders for Boston, and the order was addressed to him there and a duplicate sent to Pineapolis. The Albany did not proceed to Boston as ordered, in consequence of the Lopez Expedition, and that her Commander in disobedience to orders, hoisted my pennant on the Albany on receipt of the duplicate, and, on his arrival at Havana, he found a blue broad pennant flying on the Congress, commanded by my junior, Captain McKeever, who ordered my pennant on the Albany to be struck. I cannot learn by the instructions of the Department to Captain McKeever that, he was authorized to fly a broad pennant until he relieved Commodore Storer, as by the letter of your predecessor to me, of 17 July 1850, he informed me he transmitted for my information, "a copy of a despatch from Captain McKeever, U.S. Frigate Congress dated at Havana 2^d Inst." If then Capt McKeever was not authorized to hoist a broad pennant until his arrival on the Brazil station, I think it was an assumption of power in him to order my pennant to be struck; he should,

it is respectfully submitted, have transferred my pennant to his ship whilst at Havana. This affair created unfavourable remarks among citizens at Havana and dissatisfaction among the officers of the two ships.

I beg leave to submit the matter to the Department for its consideration, and request such order may be taken upon it as will maintain the discipline of the C. Vang; and would remark that, I have not the slightest personal feeling in the matter.

I enclose also an anonymous letter to me, which I request may be sent to Commodore M. D. Keener, and the author, if possible, discovered and reported to the Department.

I have the honor to be,
very respectfully,

Yr. Obedt. Servt.,
Foxhall A. Britton,
Comd. U.S. Home Squadron.

P. J.
Please return the original papers.

Wm. Will. A. Graham
Secretary of the C. Vang.

Circular

162

All Communications addressed to me hereafter by Commanders of Vessels of the Home Squadron, must be sent through the Navy Department, as, at the request of the Hon The Secretary of the Navy. I have given up the Frigate *Paritan*, and shall until one of the New Steamers are finished, remain on shore.

My sperrant will however be hoisted on board of one of the Sloops of the Squadron for the present.

Signed

Foxall A. Parker.

Commanding Home Squadron.

Norfolk Virginia
May 1-1850

Sent to all the Commanders of Vessels in the Home Squadron.

R.S.R.P.

Copy

164

U. S. S. Congress

Havana July 8. 1850.

If Command. Parker could have witnessed the disgraceful spectacle of bound Randolph coming into this port on board the ship "Albany" with a "broad pendant" flying - in the presence of Command McKeever he would have felt the folly of giving him any such order. An officer who loved the service could never be instrumental in inflicting such a disgrace upon it. Fortunately there was neither a French nor English Man-of-war present. We blushed only that a Spaniard should see such disrespect offered to an officer of rank in the American Navy.

100

Fairfield Conn.
Sept. 11th 1850 -

Sir,

I have the honor to inform the Department of the arrival of the U. S. Schooner of War Germantown at New York this day.

The Germantown sent a Boat into the Harbor of Havana on the 29th ult. & communicated with our Consul - all was quiet, and no news of importance.

The Department will please direct what disposition is to be made of the officers & crew of that ship.

I would recommend that the crew be discharged & the ship fitted for sea with despatch.

I am very respectfully
Your Oth. Servant

Josiah A. Parker
Com. U. S. Home Squadron

The Hon^{ble}

William A. Graham
Secretary of the Navy
Washington

D. C.

Copy,

Philadelphia, Pa.
November 28, 1850.

Sir,

When the Vessel Albany under your command, is in all respects ready you will get underweigh and proceed to sea.

Passing through the West Indies, you will touch at the ports of St. Domingo and Cruz Cayes on the Island of Hayti -

Should all be quiet at those ports, and you hear of no disturbance at Port au Prince or elsewhere requiring the presence of a vessel of war, you will depart thence direct to Havana.

From Cuba you will proceed to cruise along the Coast of Yucatan and Mexico, visiting Vera Cruz, Tampico and any other ports you may deem advisable.

You will give your attention to the state of our trade, and all lawful protection to our Citizens and Commerce in whatever quarter you may visit, taking care to avoid those ports where contagious diseases exist, so as to preserve the health of your officers & crew.

When in want of provisions you will proceed to Sinaloa for a supply; fill up & again prepare for sea.

The

Commander, Chas. J. Platt,
Comdg. Vessel of War Albany,
Boston

Ward
J. Platt

The regulations and discipline of the Service must be strictly enforced on board the vessel under your command.

Upon your way to Pensacola for supplies, a visit to ~~Havana~~ would be advisable.

You will keep me regularly informed of your whereabouts and movements, communicating with me at whatever port you may hear of my arrival.

Upon your arrival at Pensacola, should I be absent in the West Indies, you will send a report of your cruise to me, unsealed, through the Navy Department.

It is desirable that you should reach Havana as soon as practicable.

Wishing you health and a pleasant cruise,

I am Sir respectfully,
Yr. Obed. Servant,
(Signed) Foxhall A. Parker,
Commanding Home Squadron

Forwarded by Yr. Obed. Servant.

Foxhall A. Parker
Commanding Home Squadron